



September 7, 2017

Dear Stanford Jewish Community and Supporters,

I wish that my first communication to you as the new Executive Director of Hillel at Stanford was about something more positive, but I want to share unfortunate news I have received from our partners at Stanford University. Yesterday the outer wall of one of the campus residence halls was defaced with a modified swastika, the same symbol that has appeared in about a dozen acts of vandalism on campus and in the surrounding communities over the last year.

We condemn in the strongest terms any acts of anti-Semitism, including this one. We appreciate the work of our partners at Stanford University, and Stanford Public Safety who responded to the incident, alerted us, and are continuing to investigate this apparent pattern of vandalism as a potential hate crime.

While the police do their work to apprehend the perpetrator, we at Hillel are all the more committed to our work in the face of incidents like these. We are a welcoming home for all Jewish people in the campus community, and we are devoted to building a strong, resilient Jewish community in the heart of Stanford. In light of incidents like these directed towards Jews and other people, we are bringing renewed energy to building relationships across campus with groups who may share our feelings of

vulnerability and are committed to a vision of a university community where all members feel secure and at home.

If you have further concerns, please reach out to me. The Hillel staff and I are here for our students and for you.

May we speak next of happier things, like students arriving on campus and a joyous, meaningful launch of the Jewish year.

Shanah tovah,

Rabbi Jessica Kirschner

Executive Director

Hillel@Stanford

Hillel at Stanford University is comprised of:  
The Ziff Center for Jewish Life, The Koret Pavilion, and Taube Hillel House

<http://stanford.hillel.org/>

Hillel@Stanford is a beneficiary of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties.

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